UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re HAIN CELESTIAL HEAVY METALS BABY FOOD LITIGATION

This Document Relates To: ALL ACTIONS

Case No.: 2:21-CV-0678-JS-AYS

DECLARATION OF GARY E. MASON IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO APPOINT INTERIM LEAD COUNSEL, INTERIM LIAISON COUNSEL, AND INTERIM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

GARY E. MASON, duly sworn hereby declares under the penalties of perjury as follows:

- 1. I am a member of the firm Mason Lietz & Klinger, LLP, ("MLK") and make this Declaration in support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Appointment of Interim Class Counsel pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. Proc. 23(g).
- 2. I am one of the counsel in *Mays v. Hain Celestial Group,Inc.*, No. 1:21-cv-00805-JS-AYS which was consolidated by the Court with the other actions filed in this district against Hain. The Order of Consolidation was entered on May 13, 2021.
- 3. The within motion seeks, *inter alia*, to appoint me as a member of the Steering Committee in the Consolidated Action.

A. Background Information About Myself and My Firm.

- 4. MLK is a nationally recognized law firm specializing in consumer class action litigation. The firm's Partners have more 70 years of class experience and have successfully litigated numerous class action matters before courts throughout the country.
- 5. Before founding MLK in 2020, I was the Founding Partner and Chairman of Whitfield Bryson & Mason, LLP, a 12-attorney law firm specializing in class and complex

litigation, with offices in Washington, D.C., Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina. I am a past Co-Chair of the Class Action Litigation group for the American Association for Justice and a past Chairman of its Rule 23 Task Group. During the course of my career, I have led or substantially participated in cases leading to the recovery of more than \$2 billion dollars.

- 6. Over the course of my 30-year career, I have managed hundreds of class actions, over a diverse range of subject matters, including defective products, environmental accidents, privacy, wage and hour, consumer fraud and antitrust. I currently serve as court-appointed Co-Leas Counsel in *In re: Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc., Dog Food Prods. Liab. Litig.*, Case No. 19-md-2887-JAR-TJJ, MDL No. 2887 (D. Kansas), Liaison Counsel in *In re: U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Data Security Breach Litigation*, MDL No. 2664, No. 1:15-cv-01394 (D.D.C.), a class action arising from a data breach affecting 27 million federal employees; Co-Lead Counsel in *Bell et al. v. WestRock, CP*, LLC et al, No. 3:17-cv-829-JAG (E.D. Va.), an environmental nuisance case in which he successfully argued for certification of a class of owners and residents of 350 properties; and Co-Lead Counsel in *Falk et al. v. Nissan North America, Inc.*, No. 4:17-cv-04871 (N.D. Cal.), a class action which recently resolved in a settlement benefiting the owners of over three million vehicles valued at over \$60 million.
- 7. My other appointed leadership roles in previous class actions include *Hobbie v*. *RCR Holdings II, LLC et al*, No. 10-113, MDL No. 2047 (E.D. La.), where I served as co-lead Counsel in a class action against manufactures of Chinese Drywall and the builder of a 354-unit condominium built with Chinese Drywall resulting in a settlement for complete remediation at cost of over \$30 million. In *In re Google Buzz Privacy Litigation*, No. 10-cv00672-JW (N.D. Cal.), I served as the Court-appointed lead counsel in a class action against Google alleging that the automatic enrollment of Gmail users in Google Buzz caused the public disclosure of Gmail

users' information. This litigation resolved with a \$10 million settlement fund for the class. My class action leadership experience also includes:

- *Galanti v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.*, No. 03-cv-00209 (D.N.J.) (Co-Lead Counsel in a class action against Goodyear alleging that the heating tubing it supplied was defective. This litigation was recently resolved with a \$330 million settlement fund).
- Kendrick v. Standard Fire Ins. Co., No. 06-141-DLB (E.D. Ky.) (Lead Counsel in a class action against 11 insurance companies alleging improper collection of local government premium taxes. After the class was certified, see Kendrick v. Standard Fire Ins. Co., No. 06-141-DLB, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 135694 (E.D. Ky. Sep. 30, 2010), and affirmed on appeal, Young v. Nationwide Mut. Ins. Co., 693 F.3d 532 (6th Cir. 2012), in an oft-cited opinion (235 citations to date), all defendants settled by creating settlement funds and directly refunding their insureds).
- Stalcup et al. v. Thomson, Inc. (Ill. Cir. Ct.) (Co-Lead Counsel; \$100 million class settlement of claims that certain GE, PROSCAN and RCA televisions may have been susceptible to temporary loss of audio when receiving broadcast data packages that were longer than reasonably anticipated or specified).
- In re Synthetic Stucco Litigation, No. 5:96-CV-287-BR(2) (E.D.N.C.) (member of Plaintiffs' Steering Committee; settlements with four EIFS Manufacturers for North Carolina homeowners valued at more than \$50 million).
- Stillman v. Staples, Inc., No. 07-849 (D.N.J.) (Co-Lead Counsel; FLSA collective action, plaintiffs' trial verdict for \$2.5 million; national settlement approved for \$42 million).
- Staton v. IMI South et al. (Ky. Cir. Ct.) (class settlement for approximately \$30 million for repair and purchase of houses built with defective concrete).

- 8. I have successfully briefed, argued and defended on appeal three motions for class certification, one of which resulted in a frequently cited U.S. Court of Appeals opinion affirming class certification. *Young et al. v. Nationwide Mut. Ins. Co*, 693 F.3d 532 (6th Cir. 2012). I have significant experience trying class action cases as well. *In re The Exxon Valdez*, No. 89-00095 (D. Alaska) (represented Alaska Natives in a mass tort and was part of team that won judgment of \$5 billion in punitive damages after jury trial at the time the largest punitive damage verdict in U.S. history which was later reduced to \$507.5 million by the U.S. Supreme Court); *Helmer et al. v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.*, No. 1:12-cv-00685 (D. Colo.) (class action tried to jury verdict; class certified upon motion argued by me). A copy of the firm resume of MLK is annexed hereto as Exhibit A. My personal resume is attached hereto as Exhibit B.
- 9. Over the years, I have worked closely and collaboratively with all of the firms seeking appointment in this case and will continue to do so in this matter as well. In particular, I have worked with Mr. Schaffer on *Newman*, et al. v. Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, Case No. 1:16-cv-03530 (N.D. Ill.); In re Synthetic Stucco Litigation, No. 5:96-CV-287-BR(2) (E.D.N.C.), with Mr. Goldenberg on MetLife and In re Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Data Theft Litig., MDL No. 1796, No. 1:06-mc-00506 (D.D.C.), and with Mr. Schaffer, Mr. Goldenberg and Ms. Emert on In re: Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc. Dog Food Products Liability Litig., MDL No. 2887, Case No. 19-md-2887 (D. Kan. 2019).

I declare pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1746 that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: May 26, 2021 Washington, D.C.

/s/ Gary E. Mason

Gary E. Mason

MASON LIETZ & KLINGER, LLP

EXHIBIT 1



FIRM RESUME

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With offices in Washington, D.C., and Chicago, Illinois, Mason Lietz & Klinger LLP is dedicated to representing plaintiffs in class actions, mass torts and individual actions in courts throughout the United States.

ATTORNEY PROFILES

Gary E. Mason Managing Partner

Gary is a nationally recognized leader of the class action bar. Focusing on consumer class actions and mass torts, Gary has recovered more than \$1.5 billion in the 30 years he has represented plaintiffs.

With his broad experience, Gary is nationally known for representing consumers in class actions involving a wide range of defective products, including Chinese drywall, fire retardant plywood, polybutylene pipe, high-temperature plastic venting, hardboard siding, pharmaceutical products, consumer electronics and automobiles.

Gary has served in leadership positions in many consumer class actions in State and Federal Courts nationwide as well as in Multi-District Litigation. Gary writes and speaks frequently on topics related to class action litigation. He was the 2012-2013 Co-Chair of the Class Action Litigation group for the American Association for Justice. He has repeatedly been named as a Washington, DC Superlawyer for Class Actions.

Gary also serves as Executive Director and President of the Board of Directors of The Bethesda Blues and Jazz Foundation.

Gary graduated magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, from Brown University in 1984 and earned his law degree from Duke University Law School. He then clerked for the Honorable Andrew J. Kleinfeld, U.S. District Court Judge, in Anchorage, Alaska. Gary is admitted to practice law in Washington, D.C, New York and Maryland. He is a member of the Bar of the United States Supreme Court and numerous federal Courts of Appeals and District Courts across the country.

David Lietz Partner

David Lietz's practice concentrates in the areas of complex civil litigation, consumer class actions, and mass torts in federal and state courts nationwide. His class action experience includes a wide range of subject matters, including violations of federal consumer protection laws (such as the FDCPA and TCPA), violations of state consumer protection law, defective products, wage abuse, and data privacy. Mass tort experience includes pharmaceutical litigation.

David also has decades of experience as a trial lawyer, representing plaintiffs in complex actions involving wrongful death and critical injury. Through both trials and settlement, he has recovered millions and millions of dollars for the victims of commercial trucking accidents,

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commercial airplane crashes, bus crashes, manufacturing and power plant explosions and fires, and construction related injuries and deaths.

David's practice includes appellate work, having briefed and argued multiple cases before federal appellate courts, including *Home Depot v. Jackson* at the Fourth Circuit. David then served as part of the winning brief-writing and oral advocacy team for Home Depot v. Jackson at the United States Supreme Court.

David holds an AV rating from the Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory, an honor he has held since 1998. He is listed in the Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers, Washington D.C. & Baltimore's Top Rated Lawyers, 2012 - 2015 edition, and has a Martindale-Hubbell Client Distinction Award.

Outside of the law, David served for 12 years on the Board of Regents of his alma mater, Luther College, and was appointed Regent Emeritus in 2017. He was a member of the Luther College Presidential Search Committee, and received the Luther College Distinguished Service Award in 2018.

David received his undergraduate degree in Political Science from Luther College in 1988, where he graduated with honors. He received his J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center in 1991. He is admitted to practice law in the District of Columbia, and is admitted to practice before a number of federal district and appellate courts.

Gary M. Klinger Partner

Gary is a natural competitor and relishes the challenge of being a litigator. He is a tenacious and dedicated advocate of his client's interests and welcomes every opportunity to help them prevail in complex, high-stakes litigation.

Gary represents clients in class actions involving wide-ranging theories of liability including consumer fraud, breach of contract, privacy violations, conspiracy, violation of the antitrust laws, and other torts. He has been appointed as class counsel to millions of consumers across the country. Gary has recovered tens of millions of dollars for consumers in class action settlements.

Prior to forming Mason Lietz & Klinger LLP, Gary was an attorney at one of the premier litigation firms in Chicago where he focused on class action litigation. Gary has successfully represented clients from pre-litigation disputes through trials and appeals in federal and state jurisdictions throughout the country.

Gary is a graduate of the University of Illinois where he received both his undergraduate and law degrees. He is licensed to practice in Illinois and numerous federal district courts across the country.

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Danielle L. Perry Partner

Danielle's primary focus is in protecting employee and consumer rights through class action lawsuits.

Danielle graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts in Peace and Conflict Studies. During her undergraduate studies, she managed and rowed for the university's Lightweight Crew Team and also spent a year in Budapest, Hungary, where she interned with the Helsinki Committee, an international human rights organization. Danielle went on to attend Loyola Law School, where she was on the Board of the Public Interest Law Foundation and headed efforts to promote alternative dispute resolution, including founding a club structured to inform students of developments in mediation and working at The Center for Conflict Resolution.

During law school, she held an externship as a law clerk for the Honorable Victoria Chaney of the California Court of Appeals, worked with the Labor Division of the Los Angeles Office of the City Attorney, and was a Board Member for the Public Interest Law Foundation.

Prior to joining Mason Lietz & Klinger, Danielle practiced at a plaintiffs' class action firm in Los Angeles, where she worked as an advocate for victims of wage theft–employees who were being deprived of pay and not provided with legally required meal and rest periods. Danielle spent much of her time working on lawsuits brought to recover lost wages and penalties for banking, manufacturing, retail, property management, and trucking industry employees.

Danielle is a member of the American Association for Justice and regularly volunteers as an advising attorney at the Employment Justice Center.

NOTABLE CLASS ACTION CASES LITIGATED BY MLK ATTORNEYS

Antitrust

In re: TFT-LCD (Flat Panel) Antitrust Litigation, No. 3:07-cv-01827, MDL No. 1827 (N.D. Cal.) (combined settlement totaling nearly \$1.1 billion in suit alleging the illegal formation of an international cartel to restrict competition in the LCD panel market) (2012).

Appliances

Ersler, et. al v. Toshiba America et. al, No. 07-2304 (D.N.J.) (settlement of claims arising from allegedly defective television lamps) (2009).

Maytag Neptune Washing Machines (class action settlement for owners of Maytag Neptune washing machines).

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Stalcup, et al. v. Thomson, Inc. (Ill. Cir. Ct.) (\$100 million class settlement of clams that certain GE, PROSCAN and RCA televisions may have been susceptible to temporary loss of audio when receiving broadcast data packages that were longer than reasonably anticipated or specified) (2004).

Hurkes Harris Design Associates, Inc., et al. v. Fujitsu Computer Prods. of Am., Inc. (settlement provides \$42.5 million to pay claims of all consumers and other end users who bought certain Fujitsu Desktop 3.5" IDE hard disk drives) (2003).

Turner v. General Electric Company, No. 2:05-cv-00186 (M.D. Fla.) (national settlement of claims arising from allegedly defective refrigerators) (2006).

Automobiles

In re General Motors Corp. Speedometer Prods. Liability Litig., MDL 1896 (W.D. Wash.) (national settlement for repairs and reimbursement of repair costs incurred in connection with defective speedometers) (2007).

Baugh v. The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company (class settlement of claims that Goodyear sold defective tires that are prone to tread separation when operated at highway speeds; Goodyear agreed to provide a combination of both monetary and non-monetary consideration to the Settlement Class in the form of an Enhanced Warranty Program and Rebate Program) (2002).

Lubitz v. Daimler Chrysler Corp., No. L-4883-04 (Bergen Cty. Super. Ct, NJ 2006) (national settlement for repairs and reimbursement of repair costs incurred in connection with defective brake system; creation of \$12 million fund; 7th largest judgment or settlement in New Jersey) (2007).

Berman et al. v. General Motors LLC, Case No. 2:18-cv-14371 (S.D. Fla.) (Co-Lead Counsel; national settlement for repairs and reimbursement of repair costs incurred in connection with Chevrolet Equinox excessive oil consumption).

Civil Rights

In re Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation, Case No. 1:08-mc-00511 (D.D.C.) (\$1.25 billion settlement fund for black farmers who alleged U.S. Department of Agriculture discriminated against them by denying farm loans) (2013).

Bruce, et. al. v. County of Rensselaer et. al., Case No. 02-cv-0847 (N.D.N.Y.) (class settlement of claims that corrections officers and others employed at the Rensselaer County Jail (NY) engaged in the practice of illegally strip searching all individuals charged with only misdemeanors or minor offenses) (2004).

Commercial

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In re: Outer Banks Power Outage Litigation, 4:17-cv-141 (E.D.N.C) (Co-Lead Counsel; \$10.35 million settlement for residents, businesses, and vacationers on Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands who were impacted by a 9-day power outage) (2018)

Construction Materials

Cordes et al v. IPEX, Inc., No. 08-cv-02220-CMA-BNB (D. Colo.) (class action arising out of defective brass fittings; court-appointed member of Plaintiffs' Steering Committee) (2011).

Elliott et al v. KB Home North Carolina Inc. et al 08-cv-21190 (N.C. Super. Ct. Wake County) (Lead Counsel; class action settlement for those whose homes were constructed without a weather-resistant barrier)(2017)

In re: Pella Corporation Architect and Designer Series Windows Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation, MDL No. 2514 (D.S.C.)(class action arising from allegedly defective windows; Court-appointed Co-Lead Counsel).

In re MI Windows and Doors, Inc., Products Liability Litigation, MDL No. 2333 (D.S.C) (National class action settlement for homeowners who purchased defective windows; Courtappointed Co-Lead Counsel).

In re: Atlas Roofing Corporation Chalet Shingle Products Liability Litig., MDL No. 2495 (N.D. Ga.) (class action arising from allegedly defective shingles; Court-appointed Co-Lead Counsel).

Helmer et al. v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., No. 12-cv-00685-RBJ (D. Colo. 2012) (class action arising from allegedly defective radiant heating systems; Colorado class certified, 2014 WL 3353264, July 9, 2014)).

In re: Zurn Pex Plumbing Products Liability Litigation, No. 0:08-md-01958, MDL No. 1958 (D. Minn.) (class action arising from allegedly plumbing systems; member of Executive Committee; settlement) (2012).

Hobbie, et al. v. RCR Holdings II, LLC, et al., No. 10-1113, MDL No. 2047 (E.D. La.) (\$30 million settlement for remediation of 364 unit residential high-rise constructed with Chinese drywall) (2012).

In re: Chinese Manufactured Drywall Products Liability Litigation, No. 2:09-md-02047, MDL No. 2047 (E.D. La.) (litigation arising out of defective drywall) (appointed Co-Chair, Insurance Committee) (2012).

Galanti v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., No. 03-209 (D.N.J. 2003) (national settlement and creation of \$330 million fund for payment to owners of homes with defective radiant heating systems) (2003).

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In re Synthetic Stucco Litig., Civ. Action No. 5:96-CV-287-BR(2) (E.D.N.C.) (member of Plaintiffs' Steering Committee; settlements with four EIFS Manufacturers for North Carolina homeowners valued at more than \$50 million).

In re Synthetic Stucco (EIFS) Prods. Liability Litig., MDL No. 1132 (E.D.N.C.) (represented over 100 individuals homeowners in lawsuits against homebuilders and EIFS manufacturers).

Posey, et al. v. Dryvit Systems, Inc., Case No. 17,715-IV (Tenn. Cir. Ct) (Co-Lead Counsel; national class action settlement provided cash and repairs to more than 7,000 claimants) (2002).

Sutton, et al. v. The Federal Materials Company, Inc., et al, No. 07-CI-00007 (Ky. Cir. Ct) (Co-Lead Counsel; \$10.1 million class settlement for owners of residential and commercial properties constructed with defective concrete).

Staton v. IMI South, et al. (Ky. Cir. Ct.) ((Co-Lead Counsel; class settlement for approximately \$30 million for repair and purchase of houses built with defective concrete).

In re Elk Cross Timbers Decking Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation, No. 15-cv-0018, MDL No. 2577 (D.N.J.) (Lead Counsel; national settlement to homeowners who purchased defective GAF decking and railings).

Bridget Smith v. Floor and Decor Outlets of America, Inc., No. 1:15-cv-4316 (N.D. Ga.) (Co-Lead Counsel; National class action settlement for homeowners who purchased unsafe laminate wood flooring).

In re Lumber Liquidators Chinese-Manufactured Flooring Products Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation MDL No. 1:15-md-2627 (E.D.Va.) (Formaldehyde case; \$36 million national class action settlement for member who purchased a certain type of laminate flooring).

In re Lumber Liquidators Chinese-Manufactured Laminate Flooring Durability Marketing, Sales Practices Litigation MDL No. 1:16-md-2743 (E.D.Va.) (Co-Lead Counsel; Durability case; \$36 million national class action settlement for member who purchased a certain type of laminate flooring).

In re Windsor Wood Clad Window Products Liability Litigation MDL No. 2:16-md-02688 (E.D. Wis.) (National class action settlement for homeowners who purchased defective windows; Court-appointed Lead Counsel).

In re Allura Fiber Cement Siding Products Liability Litigation MDL No. 2:19-md-02886 (D.S.C.) (class action arising from allegedly defective cement board siding; Court-appointed Lead Counsel).

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Environmental

Nnadili, et al. v. Chevron U.S.A., Inc, No. 02-cv-1620 (D.D.C.) (\$6.2 million settlement for owners and residents of 200 properties located above underground plume of petroleum from former Chevron gas station) (2008).

In re Swanson Creek Oil Spill Litigation, No. 00-1429 (D. Md.) (Lead Counsel; \$2.25 million settlement of litigation arising from largest oil spill in history of State of Maryland) (2001).

Fair Labor Standards Act/Wage and Hour

Craig v. Rite Aid Corporation, Civil No. 08-2317 (M.D. Pa.) (FLSA collective action and class action settled for \$20.9 million) (2013).

Stillman v. Staples, Inc., Civil No. 07-849 (D.N.J. 2009) (FLSA collective action, plaintiffs' trial verdict for \$2.5 million; national settlement approved for \$42 million) (2010).

Lew v. Pizza Hut of Maryland, Inc., Civil No. CBB-09-CV-3162 (D. Md.) (FLSA collective action, statewide settlement for managers-in-training and assistant managers, providing recompense of 100% of lost wages) (2011).

Food and Drug Misrepresentation

Smid et al. v. Nutranext, LLC, No. 20L0190 (St. Clair Ctuy., Ill., 2020) (\$6.7 million settlement)

In re Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc. Dog Food Prods. Liab. Litg., MDL No. 2887, No. 2:19-md-02887 (D. Kan. filed June 6, 2019) (Court-appointed Co-Lead Counsel)

Financial

Roberts v. Fleet Bank (R.I.), N.A., Civil Action No. 00-6142 (E. D. Pa. 2003) (\$4 million dollar settlement on claims that Fleet changed the interest rate on consumers' credit cards which had been advertised as "fixed.").

Penobscot Indian Nation et al v United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, N. 07-1282 (PLF) (D.D.C. 2008) (represented charitable organization which successfully challenged regulation barring certain kinds of down-payment assistance; Court held that HUD's promulgation of rule violated the Administrative Procedure Act),

Insurance

Young, et al. v. Nationwide Mut. Ins. Co, et al., No. 11-5015 (E.D. Ky. 2014) (series of class actions against multiple insurance companies arising from unlawful collection of local taxes on premium payments; class certified and affirmed on appeal, 693 F.3d 532 (6th Cir., 2012); settlements with all defendants for 100% refund of taxes collected).

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Nichols v. Progressive Direct Insurance Co., et al., No. 2:06cv146 (E.D. Ky. 2012) (Class Counsel; class action arising from unlawful taxation of insurance premiums; statewide settlement with Safe Auto Insurance Company and creation of \$2 million Settlement Fund; statewide settlement with Hartford Insurance Company and tax refunds of \$1.75 million)

Privacy/Data Breach

In Re: U.S. Office of Personnel Management Data Security Breach Litigation, No. 15-1393 (ABJ), MDL No. 2664 (D.D.C.) (court appointed interim Liaison Counsel).

In re Google Buzz Privacy Litigation, No. 5:10-cv-00672 (N.D. Cal. 2010) (court-appointed Lead Class Counsel; \$8.5 million cy pres settlement).

In re: Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA) Data Theft Litig., No. 1:2006-cv-00506, MDL 1796 (D.D.C. 2009) (Co-Lead counsel representing veterans whose privacy rights had been compromised by the theft of an external hard drive containing personal information of approximately 26.6 million veterans and their spouses; creation of a \$20 million fund for affected veterans and a cy pres award for two non-profit organizations).

In re: Adobe Systems Inc. Privacy Litigation, No. 5:13-cv-05226 (N.D. Cal. 2015) (settlement requiring enhanced cyber security measures and audits).